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SAC, BOSTON

November 14, 1950

SA RICHARD J. CALLAGHER

b7E

COMMUNIST PARTY USA
DISTRICT IV, BOSTON DIVISION
INTERNAL SECURITY-C

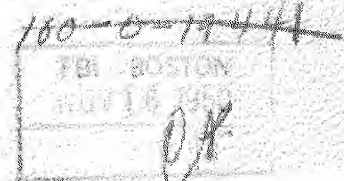
On October 5, 1950, Confidential Informant [] told the writer that JOSEPH FIGUEROA had just been made Chairman of the Textile District of the Communist Party covering Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and that he personally would handle Bristol County and the State of Rhode Island and would have a Vice-Chairman handling Lowell and Lawrence. FIGUEROA did not name the Vice-Chairman.

According to [] FIGUEROA had received this appointment in Boston early in October and that it was at the request of the National Committee of the Communist Party.

[] told the writer that the reason for this was that the Communist Party was going all out to infiltrate the textile industries and that as Hathaway Mills in New Bedford sets the pattern for the entire textile industry, they were going to direct their efforts toward this mill. [] said FIGUEROA told him that they have a man in Hathaway Mills who has advised them that the mills intend to speed up the work load, and that the Party is preparing pamphlets in anticipation of this.

FIGUEROA told him that he could not register under the new laws recently passed and that he was just hoping he would be arrested. He said that he would be hailed out and this would make him sort of a hero in the eyes of the average Party worker. It would show the worker that he, FIGUEROA, had defied the law and would give them courage to do likewise. He was instructing all the members not to register under the acts. This information was telephonically furnished to Special Agent THOMAS P. McLAUGHLIN, Jr. who sent a teletype to the Bureau.

[] said that FIGUEROA had told him that the Communist Party were sponsoring and, in fact, running a magazine called "March of Labor" and that he, FIGUEROA, would write an article on the textile industry under another name for the October or November issue.



RE 100-7908

[] said that a meeting was to be held at 11 Foster Street, Corner of Kempton Street, under the auspices of a committee to circulate the magazine the March of Labor.

FIGUEROA told [] that he should attend this meeting but that he, FIGUEROA, would not go because he did not want himself identified with the magazine. He said that all the known communists were instructed to stay away from this particular meeting and only the fellow travelers and sympathizers and secret members of the party were to attend. They did not want the magazine identified with the Communist Party.

[] told the writer that the United Electrical and Machine Workers of America under Mr. FISCHMAN, who are now in the Moss Twist Company in New Bedford, are going to try and organize the Aerovox Corporation. [] said that FIGUEROA told him that he had been asked to recommend persons working for Aerovox who might be contacted. [] says his own wife is working in that plant and FIGUEROA requested that she be present when the two organizers from the UE visited her and instructed him to have his wife furnish these organizers the names of persons who might be friendly toward the UE and who are now working at Aerovox.

At this meeting, the informant gave the writer a copy of the August, 1950, March of Labor, the September, 1950, March of Labor, which are the first and second issues of the publication. He also furnished pamphlet entitled Where Minors are Honored, or a report of a minor delegation to the USSR. This pamphlet was put out by the SPT Publications, Inc., in New York.

Another pamphlet furnished was the Deportation Terror by ARNER GREEN, also What's Happening in Korea by RICHARD MORRIS, also The Atom Bomb and You by JOSEPH CLARKE and WILLIAM BEINSTOCK.

[] also furnished a pamphlet entitled Facts of the Korean Crisis published by the committee for a democratic Far Eastern policy. It is to be noted that all of these pamphlets originated from New York City, and that they are retained as exhibits in the files on pamphlets and publications.

RJC:FJJ

100-7908

cc/100-32

SAC

66-1590

[Signature]

100-19374

100-TWDA

100-HEMWA

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Remarks:

Informant's written report follows:

JEK:lc
(7)

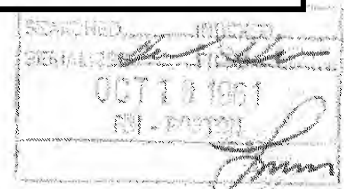
27 - New York (RM) (For copies see next page)
2 - Chicago (1 - 100) ([redacted] (RM)
 (1 - 100) (CP STRATEGY IN INDUSTRY)
2 - Los Angeles (1 - 100) [redacted] (RM)
 (1 - 100) [redacted]
2 - New Haven (1 - 100) [redacted] (RM)
 (1 - 100) (CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE FOR
 FREEDOM) Block Stamp

1 - Portland (100-) [redacted]
DEFENSE COMMITTEE) (RM)

1 - San Francisco (100-)
HARRY BRIDGES) (RM)

39 - Boston

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NEW YORK COPIES

1 - 100-56579 (PHIL BART)
1 - 100-23825 (BENJAMIN DAVIS)
1 - 100- [REDACTED] (PH)
1 - 100- [REDACTED]
1 - 100- [REDACTED]
1 - 100-13483 (BETTY GANNETT)
1 - 100- [REDACTED]
1 - 100-16021 (ARNOLD JOHNSON)
1 - 100-105078 (HY LUMER)
1 - 100- (Rev. HOWARD MELLISH)
1 - 100- (WILLIAM PATTERSON)
1 - 100-48033 (IRVING POTASH)
1 - 100- (POTESKY)
1 - 100- (TRANAZZANO)
1 - 100- (DR. WARD)
1 - (CPUSA BRIEF)
1 - 100-80644 (CPUSA, YOUTH MATTERS)
1 - 100- (CPUSA, COLONIAL MATTERS)
1 - 100-95583 (CPUSA LINE)
1 - 100- (CPUSA, STRATEGY IN INDUSTRY)
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1 - 100- (ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE)

BOSTON COPIES

1 - 100-34409 (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS)
1 - 100-17930 [REDACTED]
1 - 100-24914 (PHIL BART)
1 - 100-2453 [REDACTED]
1 - 100-33497 [REDACTED]
1 - 100-10072 (BENJAMIN DAVIS)
1 - 100- (BETTY GANNETT)
1 - 100- (ARNOLD JOHNSON)
1 - 100-3002 [REDACTED]
1 - 100-27959 (HY LUMER)
1 - 100-22924 [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED] (ARMANDO PENHA)

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BOSTON COPIES (Cont.)

1 - 100-33496 [REDACTED]
1 - 100-16341 [REDACTED]
1 - 100-29875 [REDACTED]
1 - 100- [REDACTED]
1 - 100-547 ([REDACTED]
1 - 100-26335 [REDACTED]
1 - 100- [REDACTED]
1 - 100-28488 [REDACTED]
1 - 100-5990 (BOSTON JEWISH PEOPLES FORUM)
1 - 100-17513 (CP BRIEF)
1 - 100-17999 (CP SECURITY MEASURES)
1 - 100-19374 (CP LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES)
1 - 100-26893 (CP STRATEGY IN INDUSTRY)
1 - 100-20782 (CP COLONIAL MATTERS)
1 - 100-20781 (CP YOUTH MATTERS)
1 - 100-18169 (CP PAMPHLETS AND PUBLICATIONS)
1 - 100-7908 (CP NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT)
1 - 100-18049 (CP NEW HAMPSHIRE)
1 - 100-18010 (CP DORCHESTER)
1 - 100-31934 (CP FALL RIVER-NEW BEDFORD)
1 - 100-34316 (CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES)
1 - 100- (AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR PROTECTION OF FOREIGN BORN)
1 - 100- (NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AMERICAN SOVIET FRIENDSHIP)
1 - 100- (EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE)
1 - 100- (COMMITTEE AGAINST NAZISM & ANTI SEMITISM)
1 - 100- (ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE)
1 - [REDACTED]

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"National Assembly for Democratic Rights.
St. Nicholas Arena - New York City - Saturday Sept. 23rd.

"Joe Costa - Ernest Audet & Jake Bellefeuille met Phil Bart at the entrance corridor of the Arena - Phil Bart was with Irving Potash - Phil Bart introduced - Audet - Costa & Jake to Irving Potash - Phil Bart told Potash that Costa was a well known figure in the Labor movement in the New England Area and that Costa was connected with the Teamster's Union in Fall River, Mass., - At this point Potash went to Costa and asked to talk to Costa privately in an anti room - Costa agreed - Potash told Costa that they expected him in the morning because a meeting was held in the morning for teamsters who are members of the party. Potash said he knew Costa was an officer in the Teamster's Union and for that very reason wanted Costa to attend the morning _____ - Potash said that the Teamsters had a fine meeting - and that arrangements were made at this meeting for a large meeting of Teamsters of the party to be held in Chicago on Nov. 11, 1961 - Potash told Costa that it was a must for him to attend. Costa told Potash that he worked for a living and Chicago was a long way from Fall River. Costa told Potash he could not possibly attend this meeting. Potash kept insisting and Costa kept refusing - Costa insisted Chicago was way out of his territory. Potash told Costa that he would talk to him again at the Sunday Assembly meeting.

"Sept. 28, 1961.

"New York City - Saturday Sept. 23, 1961 - Afternoon.

"National Assembly for Democratic Rights - meeting held at the St. Nicholas Arena - 66th Street, New York City. -

"Present from New England were - Fall River - Joe Costa - Ernest Audet - Brockton Jake Bellefeuille - Boston - Anne Timpson - Bob Pollock - Meyer Klafelt - North Shore - Elsie Piper - and - the Armenian - (previously identified) - also 4 men & 6 women - members of the C.P. of Boston District - connected with Jewish forum in Dorchester unable to identify by names but well known - A large delegation from Conn. headed by Mrs. Otto - Louise Pettibone Smith also on the Conn. Delegation.

"1200 or 1300 delegates assembled at the Arena at about 1:00 P.M. - Delegates from almost every state present - Most delegates noticeable were from New England - Illinois -

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Ohio - Wisconsin - Michigan - California - New York -
Maryland - New Jersey -

"Most noticeable youth groups were from Illinois - about 60 - Ohio - about 50 - Michigan - 50 and a very large group from the New York Area - 10 or 15% of this group were Negroes. (Note - these figures were given to Audet & Costa by Phil Bart) - Phil Bart & Erving Potash were at the entrance corridor - when Audet - Costa & Jake came into the Arena - (More on this meeting in a separate report) -

"The meeting was opened by Louise Pettibone Smith - Smith explained the purpose of the Assembly - Smith introduced a Mr. Graham who read out the agenda to be followed.

"Mr. Graham introduced the chairman, a minister - who immediately attacked the Smith and McCarran Act as being unconstitutional and a threat to American freedom.

"Atty. Joseph Four - praised Chief Justice Warren and his 3 dissenting associates on the McCarran Act - Justice - Black - Douglas & Brennan. Atty. Four attacked Justice Frankfurter and the 5 to 4 decision - said that this decision on the McCarran act threatened the Bill of Rights. Another Attorney was introduced as an associate of Atty. Four - the attorney said - that the freedom of assemble and association is threatened by the McCarran Act and that it must be repealed because it is unconstitutional - he further said that no member of the Communist Party will jeopardize himself or his friends and register under the McCarran Act and that this bill was so bad that Truman vetoed it in 1951.

"Travazzano - Head of a Meat Cutter's Union - attacked the McCarran Act as vicious as the Landrum Griffin Bill - said the proponents of these bills are seeking further anti labor ills for government complete control of all unions - he further said that organized labor should join in the fight to repeal the McCarran Act.

"At the outside entrance of the Arena a group of very orderly young men picketed the meeting - They displayed signs that read - 'We Hate Reds - & etc.'

"National Assembly for Democratic Rights
Saturday - Evening Session - Sept. 23, 1961 - New York City.
Giant Freedom Rally at St. Nicholas Arena -

"About 3,000 in attendance -

"Rev. Howard Melish opened the Freedom Rally at about

8:00 P.M. - He attacked the McCarran as the greatest threat to Civil Liberties in America - Praised all the dissenting Justices -

"Loyd S. France - said there are 3 functioning parties in France & in Italy - France said that why couldn't America accept the Communist Party as a functioning part of the government - he attacked Zullovar of Portugal and other leaders of government holding & enslaving Colonial empires. He also attacked the Smith & McCarran acts as unconstitutional and should be repealed at once.

"Dr. Ward - Also attacked the McCarran act as a serious threat to the Freedom & Civil Liberties of the American people - Dr. Ward proposed to the delegates for acceptance that the National Assembly for Democratic rights in behalf of its delegates send a letter to Pres. John F. Kennedy urging the President to use his influence as Chief Executive to prevail upon the attorney General's office to press for a rehearing on the McCarran Act decision of June 5, 1961.

"This proposal was unanimously approved by voice vote. -

"It was also proposed that every available organization be contacted to write to the President on the same issue.

"Letters of regret not being able to attend this meeting were received from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers - Mr. Potofsky - Longshoremen's Union - Mr. Bridges - Rev. Willard Uphaus - and several other Doctors - Reverents & of heads of Labor Unions in other areas.

"A collection was taken up from delegates representing various sections present.

"National Assembly for Democratic Rights, St. Nicholas Arena - 66th Street New York City, Sunday - Sept. 24, 1961 - morning

"The meeting was opened by a Madam Chairman (unable to get name) -

"1st Speaker Rev. Moffatt - attacked the McCarron - praised - Justices - Warren - Black - Douglas and Brennan for their dissenting declarations - Rev. Moffatt said he was a victim of the Smith Act and had appeared before the Un-American Committee - he said that the Citizens Committee for Constitutional Liberties are helping American-Soviet relations

He said the National Association of Soviet Friendship rejoices in the National Assembly for Democratic rights.

"Next speaker a Mr. Fisherman (written as sounded) introduced as one of the most prominent members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. He said that when the American people get to understand the McCarran Act it will be repealed because it effects the freedom and civil liberties of all; he further urged that all delegates organize groups to send letters & telegrams to Washington denouncing the McCarran Act.

"Next Speaker a Prof. Frank Lopat - West Coast representative of American Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born - Prof. Lopat said that victims of the Smith & McCarran, which is unconstitutional - are being arrested by the hundreds in California with out warrants - he further said many of these victims in Los Angeles, Mexican Deportees, were herded into concentration camps - he said many were falsely arrested and later released - Prof. Lopat said many victims were foreigners who had come to this country in their childhood.

"Prof. Lopat said he was an American by choice and not by birth - he said he made that decision because America was made great by the foreign born who just came to America - Asked all to organize to repeal the McCarran Act.

"Next Speaker Ben Davis introduced as the National Secretary of the Communist Party and also a victim of the Smith & McCarran Acts. Ben Davis received a standing ovation - Ben Davis said the McCarran Act is unconstitutional and that no member of the Communist Party will register - Ben Davis said that if any member of the Communist Party registers he will be forfeiting his freedom & civil liberties. Ben Davis said the McCarran was enacted to destroy the American Communist Party - Davis said that this will never happen - Davis said that all free loving people of America will join in the fight for Civil Liberties and that the Communist Party was the first line of defense of American Freedom & Civil Liberties.

"At this point - Mr. Graham - asked that all regional panels go into sessions - and be ready to report within an hour.

"Note - The Youth Group - a very large group also went into a panel session.

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"St. Nicholas Arena - New York City
Sunday, Sept. 24, 1961

"Ernest Audet - Joe Costa & Jake met Ben Davis before the Assembly meeting - Ben Davis introduced Florie, head of African Affairs from Chicago, to Audet Jake & Costa - Joe Costa & Ernest Audet later met - Hy Luma, Luma said his wife was very sick and in the hospital - Costa & Audet also met Arnold Johnson and Patterson of the Daily Worker -

"After the Sunday Assembly session Erving Potash contacted Joe Costa and pleaded with Costa to attend the Teamster's Chicago meeting - Costa told Potash that Chicago was still too far from Fall River. Potash told Costa that he will come to New England before the Chicago meeting and contact Costa again -

"After the New England Panel Session on Sunday - Mrs. Otto was preparing her report for the Assembly in behalf of the N. E. Delegation - The Negro delegates (-Previously identified) - during the session asked a number of questions - and when a suggestion was made by a lady delegate from the Dorchester area, to organize a committee from the N. E. group to mail out literature instead of taking this request back to the clubs -

"The Negro Delegate suggested that the Dorchester delegates take immediate charge and appoint a committee - It was ruled that the entire suggestion be taken back to the clubs for further organization work - Just before the panel adjourned the Negro delegate requested that all names be taken of all N. E. Delegates for the record. A delegate from Boston - about 5'8" tall, 60 or 65 years old - about 160 pds. - very light complexion - very light Grey hair - very distinguished looking and quite dignified. This delegate told Jake & Costa that the Negro delegate was a plant and being watched very closely for the past several years - he further said the Negro delegate during the entire Assembly was continuously taking down notes & writing - and that during the N. E. panel session the Negro delegate - continuously asked questions and always suggested other people work on committees and always kept himself out - he also said that the Negro delegate blundered in asking for the names of the N. E. Delegates - The Boston Delegate said the Negro delegate had the same approach used by Armand Penha - Jake said he was familiar with the

situation & agreed -

"National Assembly for Democratic Rights
St. Nicholas Arena - New York City - Sept. 24, 1961
New England Panel Discussion -

"Chairlady - Mrs. Otto - (Pronounced)

"Roll call by numbers - Mass. 18 - Conn. 14 including
Prof. Louise Pettibone Smith - New Hampshire 1 - (Possibly
Mrs. Otto who had a previous activity connection in New
Hampshire) -

"Mrs. Otto discussed the Rev. Willard Uphaus case and
asked the New England panel to go on record of continuing
the fight in defense of Uphaus - Mrs. Otto said N. H. is
powerless in helping Uphaus and that all the help was
coming from outside N. H. Mrs. Otto asked for the support
of the National Assembly's proposals -

"Anne Timpson asked the Conn. Group if they had a
functioning committee - a well dressed man - in the late
thirties - about 140 pounds - light complexion - was with
his wife - Blonde (Bleach?) - said that they have a
committee of 3 known as the Conn. Committee for Freedom -

"Mrs. Otto asked the panel to form committees here
or at their clubs to send out literature in defense of Uphaus -
Civil Liberties and for the repeal of the McCarron Act.

"In this group was a Negro - in his early 30's round face -
about 5'6" or 5'7" - about 160 pds - (Note will report
more on him later).

"Anne Timpson suggested that college students should be
contacted at their campuses and attempts should be made to
organize them for the defense of American Freedom & Civil
Liberties. A Dorchester man - Jewish - about 5'2" thin
gray hair about 120 pds - reported that the Jewish forum
in Dorchester has arranged to hold a protest meeting of
the Smith & McCarran acts at their Hall in Dorchester
Sunday Oct. 22, 1961 - and that Arnold Johnson will be
the guest speaker.

"It was proposed to endorse the National Assembly program
of action and also to report that the N. E. panel request
an all out fight for the defense of Prof. Willard Uphaus - and
also to lay out plans to organize college students at the
college campus.

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"The leaders of various panels reported - all accepted the Assembly's line of action - New York representative stressed that the Labor movement was the most important factor in the fight for American Freedom and Civil Liberties.

"The representative of the Youth Group brilliantly asked for - counsel & guidance so they will be prepared to follow the footsteps of previous great leaders for Freedom and for the defense of Civil Liberties.

"Adjournment"

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Negro delegate mentioned in the last page of informant's report is identified as Rev. MOSES WALKER of Saugus, Mass. and is not associated with the Bureau in any capacity.

Informant submitted following literature obtained at instant meeting:

Postcard addressed to President JOHN F. KENNEDY, The White House, Wash., D. C. requesting rehearing of Supreme Court decision of June 5 under the McCarran Act. (for signature and mailing).

Note paper bearing heading "Greetings to participants of National Assembly for Democratic Rights from Citizens Committee for Constitutional Liberties, 22 E. 17th St., Room 1525, New York 3, N. Y., Watkins 9-6662.

"Your Constitutional Rights To Think To Speak To Organize To Publish Are in Danger!" a pamphlet issued by the Citizens Committee for Constitutional Liberties.

Statement of principles of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, 421 7th Ave., NYC, Oxford 5-2863 - a flyer entitled "What is ECLC?"

Reprint of page 6 of National Guardian (issue unknown) containing article by MARVIN STERN, education and legislative director, American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born entitled "The Battle for the Foreign Born - How Walter -McCarran Act wrecks its victims' lives.

Pamphlet entitled "The Exile of Hanish MacKay and William Mackie" issued by The MacKay-Mackie Defense Committee. Reuben G. Lenske, Chm., 1014 SW 2d, Portland, Oregon.

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Flyer entitled "Shall Nazis Be Free to Invite Murder and Genocide in the U.S.?" issued by Committee Against Nazism and Anti-Semitism, 1133 Broadway, Room 732, New York 10, N.Y. Watkins 9-2483.

"Petition in support of H. R. 6208, 87th Congress, 1st Session issued by American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, 49 E. 21st St., N.Y. 10, N.Y.

Mimeographed leaflet entitled "Is It Possible?" urging readers to hear an American Communist's view of the draft program of the Soviet Union at Burning Issued 67 2nd Ave., New York City 9/25/61 at 8 p.m.

Flyer entitled "A Call to Action In Defense of the Constitution of the United States for the Preservation of the Bill of Rights" containing a program and registration blank for the National Assembly for Democratic Rights 9/23-24/61, St. Nicholas Arena, 69 W. 56th St., NYC.